

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 10th December 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ...	Calcutta ...	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto ...	.....	29th November 1881.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	700	28th ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	.....	9th December 1881.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	6th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	671	29th November 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ...	Calcutta ...	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	296	6th December 1881.
11	"Chāruvartā" ...	Sherepore, Mymensing ...	.....	28th November 1881.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Dacca ...	350	4th December 1881.
13	"Dūt" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
14	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	745	9th ditto.
15	"Halisahar Prakāshikā" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	3rd ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Beauleah, Rājshāhye... ..	200	7th ditto.
17	"Medinī" ...	Midnapore ...	.....	3rd ditto.
18	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ...	Berhampore ...	487	
19	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	2nd ditto.
20	"Navavibhākar" ...	Calcutta ...	850	5th ditto.
21	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	27th November 1881.
22	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore ...	275	
23	"Rajshahye Samvād" ...	Beauleah ...	.....
24	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kakiniā, Rungpore ...	250	8th December 1881.
25	"Sādhārani" ...	Chinsurah ...	500	20th and 27th November 1881.
26	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	500	7th December 1881.
27	"Som Prakāsh" ...	Changripottā, 24-Perghs. ...	.....	5th ditto.
28	"Sudhākar" ...	Mymensing ...	.....
29	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Calcutta ...	4,000	3rd ditto.
30	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ...	Sylhet ...	440	
31	"Tripurā Vartāvaha" ...	Commillah ...	.....	26th November 1881.
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Samvād Prabhākar" ...	Calcutta ...	700	2nd to 8th December 1881.
33	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	5th to 7th ditto.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	625	5th to 9th ditto.
35	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" ...	Ditto ...	500	5th to 7th ditto.
36	"Prabhātī" ...	Ditto ...	.....	5th to 9th ditto.
37	"Samāchār Sudāhbarsan" ...	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto ...	365	3rd December 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Behār Bandhu" ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	1st ditto.
40	"Bhārat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	500	1st ditto.
41	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ...	Ditto ...	200	5th ditto.
42	"Uchit Baktā" ...	Ditto ...	.....	3rd ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ...	Ditto ...	250	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat" ...	Ditto ...	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Assam Vilāsini" ...	Sibsagar ...	.....

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SADHARANI,
November 20th, 1881.

The *Sádháraní*, of the 20th November, received on the 7th instant, contains an article on local self-government and the circular recently issued to all Divisional Commissioners by Sir Ashley Eden on that subject. The Editor has been always of opinion that the defects which disfigure the present system of administration will continue to exist until representatives of the people of India are admitted into Parliament. He earnestly cherishes a hope that the privilege will some day be conceded to them; in the meanwhile, he thanks the authorities for their efforts to confer the boon of local self-government upon natives of this country. The Editor thus comments upon the circular issued by the Lieutenant-Governor:—We have not been in the least surprised at the publication of this circular. We have known the present Lieutenant-Governor for a long time past, and seen him figuring in many different scenes during the last thirty years. We have seen him, when he was Magistrate of Baraset, lending his assistance to the indigo planters to humour the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir F. Halliday. We have again seen him, like a dutiful servant, heartily co-operating with his master, the ever-to-be-remembered Sir. J. P. Grant, when that Lieutenant-Governor was engaged in putting down the lawless indigo planters. We have seen Sir Ashley Eden shrewdly supporting Lord Lytton when that disgrace to the English nation was about to gag the vernacular press. And now, that the present generous-hearted Viceroy is anxious to do a little good to us, we find His Honor, like a loyal subordinate, promptly issuing a circular in furtherance of the object His Excellency has in view. Now we do not wish to be understood as maintaining that Sir Ashley Eden has no independent opinion of his own; what we do say is that, though His Honor may have views of his own, yet he is prepared, from his knowledge of the direction in which the wind blows, to throw them overboard. Though not, therefore a man of fixed principles, we should nevertheless have expected much from him, but for the fact that a thing is never done well when it is done at the bidding of another. Hence it is that, though pressure has been put upon Sir Ashley Eden by the higher officials, yet, owing to his own lukewarmness, the orders of superior authority are not being duly carried out. We have not unoften found the character of the most liberal master disparaged because of the niggardliness of his servant. Such a servant has fallen to Lord Ripon's lot; and there is, therefore, little likelihood of his winning a good name, although he is so generous. The Editor promises to show, on a future occasion, how the generous wishes of the Government of India are likely to remain unfulfilled through the faults of the officers subordinate to it.

SADHARANI.

2. The same paper considers it as strange that, while proposing to confer the boon of local self-government upon the people, the Government of India does not make any mention as to the necessity of repealing the Vernacular Press Act—that standing proof of the fact that natives of the country are distrusted by their rulers; and yet real self-government is impossible where the press is gagged. The vernacular press should therefore be first made free.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA,
November 26th, 1881.

3. The *Tripurá Vártávaha*, of the 26th November, continues the subject of the execution of decrees passed by the civil courts.* The Editor condemns the careless manner in which this matter is disposed of by officers presiding over civil courts, the whole thing being

* See paragraph 13 of the Weekly Report of the 26th November 1881.

left to be dealt with by the amlah. Considerable delay and harassment are consequently caused to the decree holders.

4. The *Paridarshak*, of the 27th November, observes that it has been the lot of Sir Ashley Eden to work at a time when political views opposed to his own are in the ascendant. He has been long in this country, and it is indeed hard to believe whether any other person who had, like him, sold his conscience, could have so long remained in it, and done so without learning to love the Bengalis. Sir Ashley has, during the long period of his connection with India, often changed his views, but on the present occasion he finds his position to be one of extreme difficulty. He cannot make up his mind to resign his post, and yet he finds it hard to continue in it and give expression to views so opposed to his own. He has therefore hit upon a middle course, which he hopes will satisfy Lord Ripon, while it will humour the Bengalis without conceding to them anything substantial. The Editor then proceeds to observe that local boards will not serve any useful purpose whatever, until they are made perfectly independent of their official chairmen.

PARIDARSHAK,
November 27th, 1881.

5. The same paper refers to the case of Mr. Sharp, Joint-Magistrate of Bogra, who recently ordered the arrest of the members of a peaceful and authorized Brahmo procession without any reasonable provocation. The Editor notices with concern that instances of highhandedness on the part of executive officers of Government are gradually increasing, and that Government manifests the greatest indifference in the matter.

PARIDARSHAK.

6. The *Sádháraní*, of the 27th November, contains an article on the views expressed by Sir Ashley Eden on Lord Ripon's scheme of local self-government. The observations made by the writer are exactly similar to those noticed in paragraph 22 of our Report of the 19th November 1881.

SADHARANI,
November 27th, 1881.

7. Referring to the rules for the conduct of business in the post-office savings banks, the same paper points out that the rule regarding the withdrawal of money only once a week will cause inconvenience to poor depositors. They should have the power of withdrawing their deposits as often as they might require. If the present rule is to continue in force, nothing short of the provision that the pass-book itself shall be "legal tender" for any amount which may be found recorded therein in his name will meet the requirements of a poor depositor. Suppose a depositor withdraws a certain amount on Monday, and that the very next day he is required to satisfy a decree passed by a court for a certain amount against him. Under the existing rules he cannot withdraw money before the succeeding Monday. Must he undergo imprisonment in the meantime? It is therefore necessary that in such cases the tender of the pass-book should be held to have the same effect as if the amount standing in his name therein were actually tendered. Another point is that, in the case of the death of a depositor, the existing rule relating to the delivery of the money to any one claiming it is likely to give rise to frauds. In such cases the opinion of a few gentlemen acquainted with the deceased should be considered as to the person to whom payment should be made.

SADHARANI.

8. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 29th November, observes that, owing to a laxity of supervision on the part of superior officials, bribery and corruption continue to prevail in all the public offices in Chittagong. The Editor notices the case of a constable of police who received illegal gratification from a native gentleman by threatening to place him in great difficulty.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
November 29th, 1881.

That which made it possible for the constable to act in this manner was the circumstance that the Magistrate had ordered the police to impress a number of boats for carrying certain goods to Rangamatia.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
November 29th, 1881.

9. The same paper contains an article on Sir Ashley Eden's views on local self-government. The observations made are similar to those noticed in paragraph 1 of this Report.

Sir Ashley Eden on local self-government.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI.

10. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the extortion practised on pilgrims, who annually flock to the shrine of Sitakund, by the

The Sitakund fair.

Mohants. The local police connive at their illegal doings.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
November 28th, 1881.

11. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 28th November, observes that one of the reasons for which local boards proposed by Lord Ripon are looked upon with

Local boards.

suspicion is that Sir Ashley Eden is now the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The people have gradually come to believe that no good is likely to be done by Sir Ashley; and the fact that he advocates the establishment of local boards has led to an impression that the measure will only be productive of fresh taxation. But the fears of the people notwithstanding, if the Viceroy is really desirous to do good to this country, his efforts will be crowned with success. If the local boards were really made independent, and were entrusted with the execution of certain important duties, even any increase of local taxation would not be grudged by the people. It is, however, absolutely necessary that the local bodies should have nothing to do with magisterial officers.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

12. The same paper sums up its objections to Lord Ripon's scheme of Eurasian education in the following terms:—This action of Lord Ripon is unjust in

Eurasian education.

two respects, namely, (1) in providing for the education of Christian children from revenue raised from Hindus and Mahomedans, and (2) in offering an insult to the religion and nationality of the people of the country.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

13. The same paper contains a long editorial on the cruel treatment to which prisoners in the jails in this country are subjected at the hands of the authorities.

Treatment of prisoners in the jails.

It is really a matter of regret, and one quite inexplicable, that while Government performs its work in all other departments of the administration with so much generosity, the subject of the cruel discipline to which prisoners are subjected—a discipline which leads to a high rate of mortality among them—has never received adequate attention. These misguided victims of judicial ignorance deserve to be treated with consideration.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

14. The same paper refers to the fearful increase of drunkenness among the people, which has resulted from the introduction of the outstill system. Sir Ashley

The outstill system.

Eden's rule has done much harm to this country, and now the Lieutenant-Governor is exulting over the increase of excise revenue obtained last year. By bringing cheap liquor to the doors of the people, he, it would seem, has contributed both to the prosperity of the country and to the prosperity of the exchequer. Might he not go further and provide means for the gratification of the other unholy desires of the people? If that were done, both the country and the State would be prosperous indeed! The Editor thus opens the article:—Praised be British rulers! Praised be British rule! Praised be Sir Ashley Eden! Your acts are mysterious, your ways inscrutable, your morality incomprehensible! In one hand you hold nectar; in the other poison. In one hand you hold a sharp sword; with the other you bid men to be of good cheer. In one hand you hold fire; in the other water. In one hand you hold the Bible; in the other the code of the Devil's religion. You can do anything. By deluging Bengal and its people with liquor, you can yet pride yourself on the fact.

15. *The Bhárat Mihir*, of the 29th November, observes, in reference to the composition of district boards, that if these boards are really to be made efficient institutions, they should be vested with clearly defined powers as to all matters which might be left to be disposed of by them. While therefore they should have a distinct and independent existence, their relations with Government should be clearly defined by law. The manner, however, in which Sir Ashley Eden proposes to do this, will, it is to be feared, throw upon these bodies a divided responsibility in connection with many important matters. If this should be the case, the efficiency of the district boards would be seriously impaired.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 29th, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden's Circular on local self-government.

16. The same paper dwells upon the increase of drunkenness which has resulted from the introduction of the outstill system. The observations made by the writer are similar to those noticed before.

BHARAT MIHIR.

The outstill system.

17. The same paper notices with regret that while, as a writer, Mr. O'Donnell is such a sincere opponent of all oppression on the people of India, as a judicial officer he is singularly lacking in patience. In a recent case before him, the details of which are given, he showed the utmost impatience, and treated the counsel for the defendants, a pleader of the Mymensingh bar, with great rudeness.

BHARAT MIHIR.

Mr. O'Donnell.

18. Referring to the recent tour of the Viceroy the *Som Prakásh*, of the 5th December, remarks that the occasion of a tour might be made to subserve important public purposes. The Viceroy might impress on native rulers their duties to their subjects, and give them the benefit of his advice as to the best means of correcting any abuses that might exist in the administration. One thing, however, in connection with this matter is open to grave objection, namely, the practice on the part of the illustrious tourists of partaking of the hospitality of native princes or zemindars, as the case may be. The fact is liable to misconstruction, inasmuch as the people find it difficult to understand that a guest thus honored can impartially criticize the action of his host.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 5th, 1881.

Tours of Governors.

19. The same paper dwells upon the necessity on the part of Government of continuing to impart a high collegiate education to certain sections of the native community who are the best fitted to receive it. The costs of high education have in all countries and in all ages been mainly borne by the State. If the pupils themselves were required to pay for it, it is only a very few that could avail themselves of the advantage. In England also the colleges are mainly supported from the profits of the extensive endowments made by the sovereign. Compared with the state of things in England, Government expends but little on high education in India.

SOM PRAKASH.

High education in India.

20. The *Navaribhákár*, of the 5th December, is gratified to find that Lord Ripon is earnestly bent upon extending primary education in this country. Sir Ashley Eden also has earned the gratitude of the public by increasing the grant for primary education by one lakh of rupees. But this is not enough. The extent to which education has spread among the masses is not so considerable as one could desire, nor is the amount of the Government grant even a tenth part of what it ought to be. Government now spends annually eight annas on every pupil attending a pathshala, while the average annual cost incurred by the authorities in England for the education of every boy in a primary school is about Rs. 5. It is therefore needless to observe that in this poor country the amount of Government grant should be increased. Sir Ashley Eden might plead a poverty of funds, but it is for Lord Ripon to indicate the means of increasing the educational grant. Nearly four lakhs of

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 5th, 1881.

Extension of primary education.

rupees could be made available for educational purposes by relieving municipalities of the police charges; and this sum, added to the amount of existing educational grant from the provincial revenues, and augmented by further contributions from other sources, could all be expended for the purpose of extending primary education.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 5th, 1881.

21. The same paper observes that an extension of primary education at the expense of a high collegiate training is never desirable. The former can never flourish without the support of the latter; opponents of high education do not seem to understand this. Now, as a matter of fact, high education has not advanced sufficiently in this country. The knowledge acquired by those that matriculate in the Calcutta University hardly comes up in point of depth or variety to what is acquired by the pupils of a primary school in England. The education given in schools teaching up to the standard of the Entrance Examination is therefore of an elementary character. The little high education that exists in India is obtained in the high schools and colleges. The number of such institutions in Bengal is very small, and the number of students bears but an infinitesimal proportion to the population of these provinces. Those therefore that speak of the extension of high education in this country as an accomplished fact make statements which are widely at variance with the actual reality. Another question which may be asked in reference to this matter is: Is the amount of Government grant for high education sufficient for the requirements of this country? That it is not will be evident from the fact that the total cost incurred by Government on all the colleges in India is not more than what is incurred in England for maintaining only four colleges in Oxford, and that the fee paid by a student of the Presidency College is higher than that paid in any College in Oxford.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

22. The same paper remarks, in reference to the proposal to abolish the India Council that if it were carried out, there would be little reason for regret. As at present constituted, the Council is simply a costly tool in the hands of the Secretary of State, and its abolition would rather lead to a saving of expenditure. If it is to be retained, means should be used to make it more independent and useful.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

23. The same paper contains a long article on the rumour as to the imposition of an income-tax. The Editor strongly deprecates the proposal to repeal the perfectly unobjectionable cotton duties at the instance of the Lancashire merchants. But if this result is inevitable, and Government is compelled to find out a new source of revenue, the only way out of the difficulty would be found in the imposition of a tax on incomes. It is, however, necessary that the limit of taxable income should be so fixed as to exempt even persons who are in the enjoyment of a monthly income of Rs. 200.

SAHACHAR,
December 7th, 1881.

24. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th December, condemns the proposal to abolish the Indian Council. Instead of abolishing it, the authorities should vest it with larger powers, and make it more independent of the Secretary of State.

SAHACHAR.

25. The same paper deprecates the proposal to repeal the cotton duties and impose an income-tax instead. As a direct tax it is extremely unsuited to the circumstances of this country, and if imposed will be productive of oppression.

SAHACHAR.

26. The same paper, in commenting upon the address presented to Sir Ashley Eden by the Behar Landholders' Association, and His Honor's reply thereto, observes that the statements regarding the alleged improvement in the condition of the Behar ryot, contained in the

Sir Ashley Eden and the zemindars of Behar.

address, were exaggerated, and intended to please the Lieutenant-Governor. There has been indeed some improvement, but that is not due to any skill on the part of the administration, but to good crops.

27. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 3rd December, thinks it desirable that Government should appoint to the High Court some person (a *mufti*) well versed in the subtleties of Mahomedans law, for the purpose of giving opinions on matters connected with marriage, divorce, or other facts of Mahomedan social life which might be referred to him. For want of such authoritative opinion, judicial officers in the mofussil, and even the High Court Judges, all of whom derive their knowledge of Mahomedan law from English translations, are exceedingly perplexed by the arguments of counsel, each contending for the success of his client.

URDU GUIDE,
December 3rd, 1881.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 10th December 1881.

